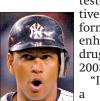


A-Rod talks about positive test result

DRUGS New York Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez admitted yesterday he had



tested positive for performanceenhancing drugs 2003.

"I did take banned

substance. Alex Rodriguez For that I'm very sorry

and deeply regretful," Rodriguez told ESPN in response to a report in Sports Illustrated that he had been one of 104 players who had tested positive that year. REUTERS

Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

- Todav **Operation cleanup and** Vancouver's homeless, pg 4
- Coming up this week Tomorrow — Views of Canadians on the streets. Thursday — One-year countdown at Whistler Friday — Unveiling the Olympic

Beating their war chests





Above: Premier Rodney MacDonald speaks at the Tory annual general meeting at the Westin Nova Scotian on Sunday. The Conservatives have about \$450,000 set aside for an election. Top right: Stephen McNeil's Liberals have more than \$300,000 and an April fundraiser should boost that number significantly. Bottom right: Darrell Dexter's NDP has approximately \$250,000.

Valentine's Day

Matters of the heart • Health & Beauty Keeping your heart healthy, Josey Vogels explores the unre alistic expecta tions of romcom love, pg 9

PAUL MCLEOD paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

The provincial Tories have

built up the biggest war

election, while the NDP

chest to spend in a spring

will have to play catch-up.

vative party has about

\$450,000 set aside for an

election. That's close to

double the approximately

\$250,000 of the NDP, while

the Liberals are some-

"Potentially, yes," said

where in the middle.

The Progressive Conser-

 Coming up this week Tomorrow — Georgie Binks' take on couples and the most romantic getaways in Canada

NDP provincial secretary Ed Wark on whether his party will be outspent by the Conservatives.

"But if we see the Tories launching an attack like they tried on the weekend, then it only hurts their credibility," he said of the recent "Risky" NDP cam-

While a spring election is not certain, all parties have openly been gearing up for a campaign. Over the weekend, Premier Rodney MacDonald celebrated his party being in the best

"I don't expect that we'll be outspent by the other parties."

Liberal Derek Wells

financial shape in his memory.

That could be a key edge in what is expected to be a tight race between the government and opposition NDP, but the third-place Liberals can't be counted

While both the NDP and

Liberals haven't completed their year-end audits, Liberal party president Derek Wells said his party will be able to spend toe-to-toe with anyone.

Right now, the Liberals have more than \$300,000 in the bank but that will likely jump significantly after \$300-per-plate fundraiser featuring Justin Trudeau in April.

Events of that sort can raise as much as \$100,000 for a party, said Wells.

"I don't expect that we'll be outspent by the other parties in the next election. Of course, we're depending somewhat on the generosity of our supporters come election time," said Wells.

"All three parties have to go out there during election time and raise money from their supporters."

Parties also have credit lines they can draw from for extra money on the campaign trail.

In the 2006 election, both the Tories and NDP spent just more than \$1 million while the Liberals spent about \$650,000.



Students, want to win \$2,000 toward post-secondary studies? The province is now taking nominations for its Power of Positive Change award. It was inspired by David Shepherd and Travis Price, who wore pink to stand up against bullying. To enter, visit powerofpositivechange.ca. метко націғах

Local



Dreaming of black ink

If every Bluenoser could chip in \$11,638 toward the provincial debt, we'd be in the black. As of March 31, 2007, the Nova Scotia provincial debt stood at \$10.9 billion, down 0.1 per cent from the year before. Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest per-capita debt in Canada, at \$18,452.

Police lay five charges after 7-hour standoff

HIGHWAY 107 RCMP laid five charges against a metro man after a seven-hour highway standoff Sunday.

The 39-year-old allegedly rammed his car into a police cruiser before being chased and pulling over on Highway 107. The man said he had a gun and began a seven-hour standoff before surrendering peacefully, police

Yesterday police charged the man with two counts of mischief, flight from a police officer, assault with a weapon, and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

Amherst mayor seeks aerospace training in town

PROPOSAL With Amherst set to become an aerospace hub, the town's mayor is hoping the Nova Scotia Community College will enhance training opportunities available out of Amherst's satellite campus.

Rob Small, who is also an executive at IMP Aerospace, is urging the province to set up a pilot project in Amherst that would provide training for area aerospace companies like IMP, C-Vision and Bradean Tool and Die Manufacturing.

"The basis for the training I'm looking to see would help all the manufacturing industries, but would have an aerospace focus," Small said, adding the proposed aerospace institute would operate under the community college. METRO HALIFAX

metrenews.ca WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Rising costs and vocal protests dull optimism for Vancouver Olympics at metronews.ca/canada Video Families in some regions forced to give up healthy eating because of high costs at metronews.ca/canada Your Money Allan Small weighs the pros and cons of RRSPs versus Tax Free Savings Accounts at metronews.ca /investing

Crosswalk dangerous: Mom

Parent seeks crossing guard for school area street

JENNIFER TAPLIN jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

A Dartmouth mom says she has had too many close calls at a marked and lit crosswalk.

"I've been in the crosswalk and the car actually hit the back of my leg as I'm standing at the crosswalk as the kids are going through," said Heidi Chace.

"Enough is enough."

She wants a crossing guard installed at the crosswalk across from the McDonald's on Nantucket Avenue She walks her kids to the Bicentennial school every day because of the dangerous crossing.

"My kids are 10 and 11 (years old). Why should I have to walk them back and forth to school? C'mon they don't want me holding their hands and walking them to school.'

She said several other children will only cross with a parent like Chace because they're too afraid to cross the multi-lane street.

"The cars shoot through there and they don't even care. I've been standing in the crosswalk and they go through the crosswalk as I'm standing there with the kids.'

Parents were told the HRM won't employ crossing guards there because there isn't enough traffic. Albro Lake-Harbourview Coun. Jim Smith and HRM staff did not return messages yesterday.



Heidi Chace, far right, crosses Nantucket Avenue with her own children and neighbourhood kids yesterday. Chace wants crossing guards stationed at the busy crosswalk.

"I wish for just one day someone would just sit up there with a camera in the McDonald's parking lot and watch the (cars) go through as the kids are in the crosswalk."

Heidi Chace

"I wish for just one day someone would just sit up

there with a camera in the McDonald's parking lot

and watch the (cars) go through as the kids are in the crosswalk."

Chace said she has talked to at least 10 other concerned parents about this issue.

Share **Your** Views halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Ex-player's murder charge upgraded

ALBERTA A former Dartmouth hockey player charged with killing a young woman from Red Deer, Alta., last week now faces an upgraded murder charge.

The body of Teagan Klein, 23, was discovered in a home in Anders Feb. 4. Police have not released the cause of death.

Already facing seconddegree murder, Brett Jones, 19, was in court yesterday morning where the original charge was upgraded to first-degree murder, a charge that carries a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison.

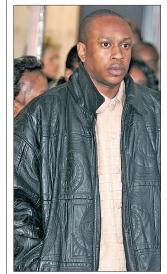
Jones, who has reserved his plea until Feb. 17, does not yet have a lawyer and will be remanded in police custody.

Jones faces a number of other charges, including theft, unlawful confinement and assault causing bodily harm.

He did not speak at his court appearance, except to answer "yes" to indicate he understood all the charges against

Jones was taken into custody in Edmonton at around 11:20 p.m. on Thursday after a missing Honda Civic was found in that community.

THE RED DEER ADVOCATE





Jerrell Johnston, left, walks out of a Supreme Court courtroom yesterday. Nathaniel Sparks, right, stands outside of the courtroom where he and Johnston stand trial, charged with two counts of second-degree murder and one count of attempted murder.

Double murder trial begins

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

After many delays, the double-murder trial of two Cherry Brook men is underway.

The trial of Jerrell Johnston and Nathaniel Sparks began slowly, with police outlining how officers arrived at a North Preston address two years ago to find blood stains and bullet cartridges on the ground.

Brandon Beals, 21, and Martaze Provo, 25, were shot to death outside an after-hours club on Upper

Partridge River Road on contact with the defen-Dec. 10, 2006. Johnston and Sparks are accused of second-degree murder in their deaths, and of attempted murder in the shooting of Vantino Beals, who survived.

The trial has already faced several delays. The original judge, Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Gerald Moir, had to step down for health reasons. Justice Felix Cacchione is now hearing the case.

Two jurors also had to be replaced because of possible conflicts of interest involving knowing people in

dants. Adding to all that was the violent weather last week, which shut down the courts for a day and delayed the jury selection process.

The prosecution elected not to make opening statements to the jury. The trial is scheduled to run four days per week for a month.

Both of the accused are originally from Cherry Brook but were living out west when they were charged. Johnston was living in Edmonton while Sparks was in Vancouver.

The city will hold sessions on the future of the Bayers Road and Highway 102 corridor from Windsor Street to Fall River. They'll be held Wednesday, 6-9 p.m. at the St. Andrew's Centre, and Thursday night at the LeBrun Community Centre. METRO HALIFAX

Healthy food getting out of reach? | Military to

JENNIFER TAPLIN jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

There's a danger looming in the aisles of the neighbourhood grocery store: Healthy food is becoming too expensive.

And it's tough to reach for that whole wheat pasta when the regular stuff costs about

The Heart and Stroke Foundation asked volunteers in 66 cities across the country to go shopping last fall. They compared prices and what they found were widely fluctuating costs for healthy items, seemingly without reason.

"It's clearly a wake-up call for this huge problem when basic, healthy food we're recommending in the Canada Food Guide is out of reach for many Canadians and there are such discrepancies in the price of food across the country," said Patty Williams, a professor and a Canada Research Chair in food security and policy change at Mount Saint Vincent University.

In some regions, people are paying up to six times as much for the same food

Milk prices in Nova Scotia are among the highest in the country, yet we have dairy

What it will cost you

- In Wolfville, people are paying \$7.58 for four litres of milk, but shoppers in Vancouver are paying only
- Digby has the third most expensive kilogram of lean ground beef at \$10.25. In comparison, people in Barrie, Ont., and Timmins, Ont., are paying less than half at \$4.14.
- Whole wheat pasta will cost

farms aplenty. "We've done some research into access to milk for lone mothers and it's a huge issue and often times mothers are going without," she said.

Even within the province, food prices change between communities: A bunch of green grapes in Amherst will cost \$3.24, for example, but Haligonians pay \$5.73.

"If people can't access the healthy foods they need to prevent heart disease, then that's a big concern for the Heart and Stroke Foundation," said Elaine Shelton, director of health promotion at the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia.

recommending governments work with the food industry to investigate pricing and promotion pracyou \$11.37 in Dawson, Yukon, but only \$2 in Barrie.

- Five apples cost Calgarians \$5.02, but Edmontonians only
- Healthier foods are better for your body, but they're harder on your wallet. For example, trans-fat free margarine costs on average \$3.29, but its trans fat-filled counterpart costs \$2.79.

tices to better address food pricing and to figure out some of the inconsistencies."

The foundation also wants the government to monitor and report on the price of core staples.

The only food items that stay at a constant — and low - price seem be unhealthy foods like chips, pop, and cookies.

"It puts the healthy choice out of reach for many people and it makes the unhealthy choice much easier,' Williams said.

"We don't know why healthy food is more expensive, but we know based on our own research that a healthy, nutritious food basket is out of reach particularly for people on low incomes.'

And with the economy



A grocery basket report card released by the Heart and Stroke Foundation yesterday shows healthy foods are more expensive and are in danger of being out of reach for many Canadians. The national report shows a wide variation in food prices, with some Canadians paying up to six times more for their groceries.

tanking, she said, we can only expect more people will be unable to afford to eat well.

"If we don't do something about this ... it is going to contribute to escalating rates

of chronic disease and obesi-

Representatives Sobeys and Atlantic Superstore did not respond to interview requests yesterday.

clean úp arsenic

WATERFRONT The military plans to pave over nearly 2,800 square metres of soil contaminated with unhealthy levels of arsenic on the Dartmouth waterfront.

The site, known as 1107b, is on the

navy dockyard lands just north of localized." the Macdonald Bridge. Bill Kelly,

Bill Kelly

"It's very

the military's environmental engineer in charge of the project, said the arsenic in the infill on the site is both naturally occurring and the result of coal ash.

The soil also contains oil, greases and maintenance chemicals.

Kelly said the military intends to spend up to \$150,000 paving over the area, starting this spring or early summer.

"It's very localized," Kelly told CBC News Monday, calling it a "low-risk" area. "The paving project that we're going to have in place will definitely take care of the issue."

Once the paving is done, he said, the military will monitor the area on a yearly

Air travel returns to Yarmouth

PLANES Yarmouth returned to regular scheduled air service as Starlink Airlines took off for its first flight from Yarmouth to Halifax.

The first flight departed from Yarmouth at 7:30 a.m. yesterday with 17 passengers onboard.

The Yarmouth airport has been without regular scheduled air service since Nov. 28, 2003 when Sou'West Air ended its service. It was the second time in one calendar year that Yarmouth lost air service. In January 2003 Air Canada's Jazz stopped servicing the area.

Starlink Airlines, a Quebec-based company, intends to offer two daily return flights between Yarmouth and Halifax and Yarmouth and Portland.

No expansion for Dooly's bar

ENTERTAINMENT Dooly's pool hall on Reeves Street has lost its bid to introduce a DI and dance floor, the Nova Šcotia Utility and Review Board ruled. Dooly's Port Hawkesbury had originally intended its application to include live bands as well and possibly karaoke. Management later dropped the live bands due to the number of residences located nearby. METRO HALIFAX

Ice fishing A Canadian pastime



Vincent Cayer from Tantallon fishes inside his tent on Albro Lake yesterday. Cayer is heading off to Afghanistan in two weeks for work, so he was taking some time to relax beforehand.

Value of business loans sink in Shelburne

ECONOMY A two-thirds decrease in the value of business loans approved by the Shelburne County Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) last year is just another example of how depressed the economy is in the county.

In 2008, the Shelburne County CBDC approved only \$500,000 in loans, said executive director Dixie Redmond, as opposed to the previous three years, when business loans and assistance averaged between \$1.4 million and \$1.6 million.

Over the past three years, more than 80 businesses have closed their doors in Shelburne County. Besides financing, the CBDC also offers assistance with counseling, advice and training opportu-

METRO HALIFAX

Blaze leaves family homeless

DURHAM When homeowner Hal Jones returned to the site that was his family's house yesterday morning, he had to borrow a pair of gloves from West River Fire Department chief Dennis Harnish.

Jones, his wife and their two children, aged seven and 12, fled their home so fast Sunday he didn't have time to grab gloves.

Harnish said they got the call at 8:58 p.m. and were on the scene shortly thereafter,

but by that time the 34-yearold bungalow on Highway 376 was engulfed. Working smoke detectors are credited with saving the family.

"Much of it is in the basement," Harnish said of the remains of the house.

"It (the fire) was up in the walls and they barely got out, barely had time to call 911." Firefighters fought the

blaze until about 11:30 p.m. Two cats are believed to

have perished in the fire. THE NEW GLASGOW NEWS

News in brief

CHARGES A 35-year-old man whose car went off the Peggy's Cove Road, hit a house and knocked over its oil tank has been charged with impaired driving. On Sunday night at about 7 p.m., the man's Chrysler Intrepid went off the road and hit the house; it caused an oil spill and structural damage. The man is also charged with refusing the breathalyzer and possession of marijuana; he'll be in court April 21. ARREST RCMP have arrested a

40-year-old Middle Musquodoboit Harbour man as part of a child-pornography investigation. On Friday afternoon, police searched a home on Branch Road and seized computer equipment. They arrested him on some other outstanding charges; he was due to be in Truro provincial court yesterday.

BUST Halifax Regional Police have charged a 54-year-old man with possessing cocaine, marijuana and cannabis resin for the purpose of trafficking after a Friday night raid on a Scott Drive home. Police seized 263 grams of cocaine, 320 grams of marijuana, 52 grams of cannabis resin and a "large amount" of cash and drug paraphernalia. **DRUGS** Police got more than they bargained for when they investigated a drug-use complaint at a Sylvia Avenue apartment Sunday night. When they got to the home at 10:20 p.m., they found marijuana in the living room and a handgun in the kitchen. A 29-year-old was charged with possession of a controlled substance, skipping court, breaching probation and possessing a restricted weapon.

METRO HALIFAX

Man charged with assisting a suicide

Police in Thunder Bay, Ont., are appealing for help in locating the friends and relatives of a 38-year-old Waterloo, Ont., woman who died last week in an alleged suicide assisted by her husband. Peter Fonteece, 46, has been charged with criminal negligence causing death and assisting a suicide. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Canada/World

Cleaning up for Stimulus plan on track The U.S. Senate yesterday moved a step closer toward approving U.S. President Barack Obama's plan to jot the U.S. economy out of the U.

ANDREA WOO for Metro Canada

VANCOUVER

2010 **Games**

With Vancouver's turn on the world stage rapidly approaching, the city is cracking down on street disorder offences — a move some believe is intended to minimize the presence of the homeless in 2010.

According to the Vancouver Police Department's 2008 annual business plan report-back, officers issued 467 tickets for violations of the Safe Streets Act last year, up from 202 in 2007.

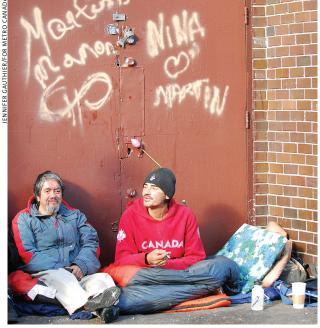
They also issued 133 tickets for violations of the Trespass Act, up from 95 in 2007. Officers ticketed 439 people for panhandling, loitering and unlicensed street vending last year, up from 247 in 2007.

"It's been shown that (the Safe Streets and Trespass acts) disproportionately affect poor people," said Harsha Walia, project co-ordinator at the Downtown Eastside Women's Shelter. "For example, while jaywalking is something those acts prohibit, the only place it's enforced on a large scale is the Downtown Eastside.'

David Eby, acting executive director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, explains that, in court, repeat offenders are typically given "no-go" orders, forbidding them from returning to the area where the offences were committed.

"It's an effort to move people out of the Downtown Eastside, in my opinion," said Eby.

The VPD, however, says doing



Two men sit by a doorway in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside yesterday. The area is Canada's poorest postal code.

Arrests, free bus tickets for homeless at '96 Atlanta Games

REPORT In the lead-up to the 1996 Summer Games, Atlanta passed strict antiloitering and panhandling laws that led to the arrests of more than 9,000 people from May 1995 to May 1996 — four times more than in preceding years, according to the New York

Anita Beaty, co-director of the Atlanta Task Force

such crackdowns are simply part of a larger goal to improve liveability by combating activities that contribute to urban decay.

"What we're doing is ... increasing our visibility in the Downtown Eastside," said spokeswoman Const. Jana McGuinness. "Everything we're doing now, we'll be well after the as jaywalking

on the Homeless, said the arrests were often for crimes such as being in a parking lot without a car or lying down on a public park bench.

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, homeless people were also given free one-way bus tickets out of the city.

ANDREA WOO/ FOR METRO CANADA

Olympics as well. There's no big movement to sweep the

McGuinness attributes a disproportionately number of tickets written in the Downtown Eastside to the area having a "24-7 lifestyle" and a near-constant presence of people committing violations such

Ticketmaster faces scalping suit

ONLINE Ticketmaster Entertainment Inc. was hit with a \$500-million lawsuit yesterday, alleging the company broke the law by reselling tickets at inflated prices.

to buy two tickets to a 2008 Smashing Pumpkins concert alleges Ticketmaster's

website said none were available, but redirected him to the company's TicketsNow resale website.

The tickets had a face value of \$66.50 each, but Henryk Krajewski said he ended up paying a total of \$533.65 for the pair.

government spending and tax breaks, setting up a vote to pass the \$838-billion US emergency package today.

After a week of contentious debate, senators reached a deal to pare down the stimulus bill by about \$100 billion and voted 61-36, with minimal Republican support, to hold a final ballot today.

If the measure passes as expected, the Senate and House will enter final negotiations on a compromise bill, with Obama arbitrating disputes. The cost of the House bill was priced at \$819 billion.

Republicans say some spending in the bill would not boost the economy, mired in its worst recession in 70 years. But De-



U.S. President Barack Obama addresses residents during a townhall-style meeting in Elkhart, Ind., where the White House said the unemployment rate had hit 15.3 per cent, yesterday.

mocrats, who control Congress and the White House, argued that a mix of tax cuts and spending were urgently needed.

The bill advanced in the Senate as Obama hit the road in the U.S. heartland and was set for a primetime evening news conference to push his call for urgent action on the bill.

'Endless delay or paralysis in Washington in the face of this crisis will only bring deepening disaster,' he told a town hall meeting in Elkhart, Ind. REUTERS

Death toll from bushfires in Australia reaches 173

AUSTRALIA Weary firefighters and rescuers pulled the remains of dozens of people from charred buildings yesterday as the toll from Australia's deadliest bushfires rose to 173, police said.

"Everybody's gone. Everybody's gone. Everybody. Their houses are gone. They're all dead in the houses there. Everybody's dead," cried survivor Christopher Harvey as he walked through the town of Kinglake, where most people were killed.

Police believe some of the fires, which razed rural towns near the country's second biggest city, Melbourne, were deliberately lit and declared the devastated town of Marysville a crime scene.

Wildfires are a natural annual event in Australia, but this year a combination of hot weather,

Political effects

• The bushfires, a natural annual event in Australia, will put pressure on the government to deliver a broad climate change policy as green politicians cite the extreme weather as reason to back a tougher policy.

drought and dry bush created prime conditions.

In Canberra, lawmakers fought back tears as they suspended parliament for the day after expressing condolences to the victims on behalf of the nation.

"It is the beauty and the wonder of our country," National Party leader Warren Truss said. "It can also be harsh and cruel. How can these idyllic landscapes also become killing fields?" REUTERS

China denies human rights violations

CHINA China yesterday stoutly defended its human rights record, rejecting suggestions from Western countries that it uses torture, jails dissidents and allows child labour and insisting its policies are guided by the rule of law.

It told the UN Human Rights Council that allegations it oppressed ethnic groups in Tibet and other parts of the country were political propaganda aimed at denigrating China's achievements.

The discussion came amid a newly launched process called the Universal Periodic Review, under which all members of the United Nations are expected to submit themselves every four years to scrutiny of their human rights record.

News in brief

ITALY Eluana Englaro, the comatose woman at the centre of a right-to-die case in Italy, died yesterday despite government attempts to keep her alive through a feeding tube. Feeding was stopped four days ago. PAKISTAN At least 13 people were killed in northwest Pakistan yesterday when two mortar bombs hit a house during a battle between the military and the Taliban, the military and residents said.

STUDY U.S. researchers have found 28 per cent of people unwilling to quit smoking to improve their own health would try to give up the habit to spare their pets the dangers of second-hand smoke. **REUTERS**

News in brief

BUDGET Steve MacLean, Canada's top astronaut, told CBC yesterday he's pleased with Ottawa's contribution of \$110 million toward robotics research in the federal budget. MacLean said the Canadian Space Agency has an eve toward developing a rover to explore the Moon or METRO NEWS SERVICES

A Toronto man who tried

metro

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5

Comment & Views

Comment

A new course for new times



efore we start banging ourselves on the head over the great economic sag, one fact is worth remembering. This isn't our doing.

The recession that pum-

melled us in the early 1990s was, in good part, made in Canada. The recession of the early 1980s also was homegrown to a good degree.

But today's adversity was brought on chiefly by American debt and deregulation. We had neither problem. Paul Martin wisely did not deregulate the banking system like they did south of the border. And our debts and deficits were under control. We can't blame our plight on the politically obsessed

Stephen Harper government, either. Its economic management has hardly been sterling, but this recession would have hit no matter what it did over the last three years.

So, while we love to blame our politicians for everything, this is not the time. Rather than going on any guilt trips, the country should follow the lead as recommended in a report last week on the Ontario economy by Roger Martin and Richard Florida.

Stimulus schemes and

handouts, they say, may be necessary to prop up the old economy. "As in all times of economic crisis, there is considerable pressure on governments to protect the past and undertake bailouts." That said, "There is a better way."

Our leaders, they suggest, need to capitalize on the current plight to drive home the need to move off the old industrial economy. Start making the big moves to an idea-driven, creative economy based not on goods, but on services. Put the stress on

the development of knowledge workers, on research and development, on innovation.

That's at home. Abroad, which was not a focus of the report, there has to be a lessening of our dependence on the United States. The Harper government is finally starting to do that with Trade Minister Stockwell Day pursuing new trade agreements on other continents.

A creative economy doesn't rely on outmoded strategies at home and abroad. It requires leaders of foresight. If not Stephen Harper, the Creative Society is a vision that might perfectly suit brainy new Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff. It moves beyond political gamesmanship and last-century methods. It charts a new course for new times.

Today's made-out-of-Canada recession should serve as a catalyst to bring it on.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

Fashion can cheer up gloomy moods



Tant
Fashion & Beauty Expert

Imagine a world without music, art or fashion.

You'd wake up in your sensible white-walled home and dress in your functional daily navy uniform before heading out to a structured nine-to-five office. Think of how sombre and depressing your mood would be to match. That's all I can visualize when asked what place fashion has in a world littered with pink slips and shrinking stock portfolios.

There's no doubt that our perception of fashion is

changing. A status symbol for the past decade, "it" bags — must-have \$1,000plus designs toted by celebs and their wannabes — are now yesterday's news. Headto-toe designer labels are considered gauche, and bling is now more quaint than fierce. Yet, just because we're dialling down our showy love for high-profile, high-status fashion, that doesn't mean our passion for style has gone the way of Uggs and track suits.

Fashion has always been a defining sign of self-expression and that's not about to change. What will change is what and how we buy. Trying times bring out the best in our creativity, imagina-

tion and innovation — and that magical equation cannot be defined by a label or price tag.

A perfect example is how mall stores, including H&M and Gap, have been collaborating on wallet-friendly collections with high-profile designers from Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garcons to Thakoon.

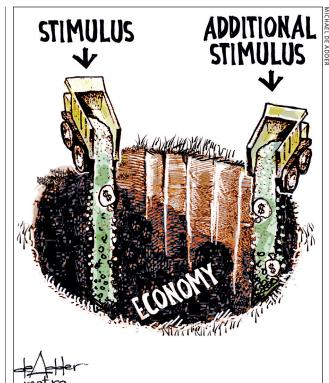
The biggest mistake a retailer could make in tough times is to stock its shelves with safe classics in predictable colours. Who really needs another white shirt or black pencil skirt? If we're going to loosen our pinched-tight purse strings it will be to splurge on mood-boosting colour, pat-

tern or decorative accessories.

Notice how Michelle Obama chose change-inspiring yellow — a sunny silk brocade topper and dress by Isabel Toledo — at her husband's inauguration. Likewise, cheerful optimism shapes the madcap fashion in February's Confessions of a Shopaholic, the unlikely story of a fashion-crazed shopper turned financial adviser.

Every savvy shopper knows that a little creative retail therapy always does the heart good.

Lisa Tant is editor-in-chief of FLARE Magazine and former executive edito of Chatelaine Magazine.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Disney, DreamWorks enter long-term distribution deal

Walt Disney Studios yesterday confirmed it has entered a long-term film distribution agreement with DreamWorks Studios principals Steven Spielberg and Stacey Snider. Disney said in a statement that it will distribute and market about six live-action films per year for DreamWorks. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

BUSINESS BUZZ

Housing starts down:

New residential construction in Halifax continued the slower pace in January that was set in late 2008. According to Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, there were 57 total housing starts last month compared to 78 in January 2008.

Ad campaign finished: Halifax's Extreme Group

has completed a new ad campaign for Country Style Food Services Inc. that consists of TV spots, in-store point-of-sale materials and billboards.

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to parity: Expert

Canada's currency will return to par with its U.S. counterpart in as little as six months as commodity prices rebound, pessimism peaks and the nation's political turmoil abates, according to economist Dennis Gartman.

"I have the sense that this might be a move back towards par and beyond," said Gartman, the editor of the Gartman Letter, who correctly predicted the currency's most recent run to parity in 2007.

The Canadian dollar reached equal value to the U.S. dollar in September 2007 for the first time in three decades as prices soared for commodities such as crude oil, which account for about half the

"I have the sense that this might be a move back towards par and beyond."

Dennis Gartman

country's export revenue. It fell 18 per cent last year as global recession curbed demand for the same commodities. The currency is down 1.6 per cent this year. Gartman's call on the loonie is at odds with the forecast of 44 economists surveyed by Bloomberg News. On average, they see the currency weakening to \$1.25 Cdn against the greenback by the end of June before rising to \$1.20 by the year's end.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Loonie to return | Personal bankruptcies up by 50%

FINANCE Personal bankruptcy filings in Canada rose more than 50 per cent in December from the same month of 2007, according to data released yesterday, a trend that parallels a jump in unemployment and debt as the economy slides into recession.

Figures released by the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada also showed that bankruptcies filed by businesses increased by just 2.4 per cent over the same period.

Debt troubles

• The ratio of debt to disposable income has hit more than 130 per cent, the Deloitte report found, citing

Total bankruptcies in Canada last year rose 12.3 per cent over 2007, an increase driven by personal insolvencies as business bankruptcies dropped two

per cent year over year. Canadians now carry more debt as a percentage Bank of Canada figures, and banks could be on the hook for more than \$800 million in bad credit card debt in 2009.

of their disposable income than Americans, according to a report issued last week by Deloitte & Touche consulting group, posing risks for lenders and challenging the country's reputation for financial pru-REUTERS

Business in brief

MADOFF Accused Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff has agreed to a partial judgment in the civil case brought by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission without admitting or denying fraud charges, the regulator said yesterday.

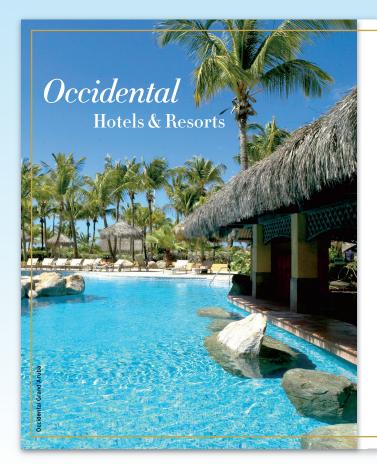
AUTOS Nissan Motor Co. said it would cut 20,000 jobs and joined a growing list of automakers warning of red ink this year in what would mark its first loss since chief executive Carlos Ghosn took the reins a decade ago.

MINING Xstrata Nickel, a cornerstone of Sudbury's workforce, axed 686 jobs vesterday as it closes down two old mines in the midst of plummeting nickel prices and evaporating demand.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Love for less One reader cashes out



ach February, millions of men around the planet agonize over the details of extravagant dates, in hopes of getting lucky in the love department.

But this year, if layoffs, market crashes and general financial uncertainty don't get you in the mood, we completely understand. So whether it's your first date, a blossoming romance or your longtime love, here are some suggestions for dates that are completely free and will help remind you what's really important:

FIRST DATE

Must love dogs

Take the edge off a first date by walking a dog together. Don't have a fourlegged friend? Borrow one from a friend, or even better, visit your local animal shelter and volunteer to walk a hard-up pup together. It's guaranteed that conversation will flow more easily and, if need be, the puppy will offer a fun little distraction.

Reality romance

You're paying for cable so why not use it? Plan an evening in and watch the current "it" reality show. To really get into the Valentine's mood we suggest The Bachelor (guys, don't knock it till you try it). Why not place a bet on who doesn't get the rose? Loser owes the winner a back rub.

DATING Cheese please

Get onto your favourite rating tips but it will also

specialty store's online Now more than newsletter list to receive no-ever, we're realizing terms of sav-ing for the futice of free that what's really events and important is not discounts.

Free plus cheese equals we spend our time.

Free tours

Check out a free factory tour. Free tours are offered at a variety of fascinating places. They can be specific to your interests, provide lots of opportunity for conversation and even free samples. We recommend checking out a brewery and



Take the edge off a first date by walking a dog together. It's guaranteed that conversation will flow easier and, if need be, the puppy will offer a fun distraction.

Valentine's **Day**

then splitting a pitcher of beer after.

LONG-TERM/MARRIED **House hunter**

Plan a driving tour of your favourite neighbourhood, checking out show homes and open houses. Not only with you be able to pick up some great deco-

get you on the same page in ture for that dream home. Plus. somewine what we spend our times it's fun free money on but how to find out how other people live!

Heart art

Get cultured and check out art galleries and museums. Check to see if they have a "by donation" night so you can save money on admission. Some galleries even offer memberships,

nual fee and go as often as

vou like. **BOTTOM LINE**

Now more than ever, we're realizing that what's really important is not what we spend our money on but how we spend our time. So put your wallet away and cuddle up close this Valentine's Day!

For more suggestions on dating for less and for other Smart Cookie tips, tune into Smart Cookies on the W Network, Mondays at 10:30 p.m.

Have questions or comments for the Smart Cook-Email smartcook ies? ies@metronews.ca.

Tune in Monday nights at 10:30 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.



In January, I decided to liquidate most of my RRSP and non-RRSP stock portfolio. After crunching the numbers, total gains minus losses left about a \$20,000 loss. How much of these amounts can I deduct when preparing my tax return in March?

In these uncertain times, it is not unreasonable for individuals to cash out of the stock market. Many financial advisers insist, "Don't cash out if you are in for the long term!" However, if it brings peace of mind, then you must do what you must do.

Any transaction execut-

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Money **Matters** Henry **Choo Chong** choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

ed after December 2008 (aside from any RRSP contributions to March 2, 2009 or superficial losses) are reported on your 2009 tax filing. Therefore, withdrawals, sales, taxable income or losses will not affect 2008 tax returns. For 2009, you will have to determine what and how much income to report:

• Separate RRSP dispositions from non-RRSP transactions.

• All RRSP dispositions

- will have no immediate tax consequences. • All RRSP withdrawals
- will be fully taxable for that year. The financial institution will provide a T-4RSP slip on or before Feb. 28, 2010.
- Calculate and offset capital gains against capital losses for non-RRSP dispositions. The net amount must be reported on 2009 tax return.
- Taxes are paid on 50 per cent of capital gains, while excess capital losses can be applied to reduce capital gains in prior three years or carried forward.

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

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Rainmen pass on dispersal draft

The Halifax Rainmen did not pick any players from the Montreal Sasquatch roster in the Premier Basketball League dispersal draft. Montreal was kicked out of the PBL last week because it was not following league regulations. METRO HALIFAX

Sports



No chicken with his ribs?

played the Super Bowl with two broken ribs, as the quarterback told Sports Illustrated yesterday. Roethlisberger said he knew something was wrong during the week before the game, that he played through the pain and that the injury was only detected in an MRI he had last

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Rookie on the rise Bye-bye Becks

MATTHEW WUEST

It's not every day a 16vear-old rookie gets promoted to his team's top line, and Gabriel Desjardins knows it.

"I'm lucky, you know?" the Halifax Mooseheads left-winger says.

But as the old saying goes, you have to be good to be lucky and lucky to be good. And Desjardins is good.

The Montreal native is described by his coaches as having one of the most consistent work ethics on the team, despite being as many as four years younger than his teammates. He has been fast-tracked to the top line as a result, skating with Czech snipers Tomas Knotek and Jan Stransky in recent games.

He says he's having a blast. Turns out, he's not the only one.

"They enjoy playing with him as much as he enjoys playing with them," says Mooseheads head coach Cam Russell. "Skilled guys like a hard-working gritty player who's going to be first on pucks in the corners and doing a lot of legwork.'

Russell calls Desjardins a "throwback to the old days." The five-foot-11 191-



Gabriel Desjardins is only 16 years old, but the Halifax Mooseheads have already promoted him to their top line. His coach praises his combination of skill and work ethic.

pounder's skate blades have barely touched the ice before his legs are churning in pursuit of the puck, and you'll be hard-pressed to catch him taking a shift off.

He leads by example and sets the bar high.

"All the time, I say in my head, 'Let's go, Gabe ... You can go, go get the puck," he explains. "There (are) 20-year-olds, 19-year-olds (in this league) and I'm 16. It's hard, but I don't think that in my head. I go hard and never mind (my age)."

Desjardins was drafted in

the second round (24th overall) in last year's QMJHL draft. His numbers are modest — eight goals and eight assists for 16 points in 45 games — but he has established himself as one of the league's top prospects.

Although his NHL draft year isn't until 2011, Russell thinks he could be selected in the top couple of rounds.

"He has what every scout, every coach and every general manager looks for: good skill level

Tonight's game

The last-place Halifax Mooseheads (15-33-3-2) renew their quest for a playoff spot tonight at 7 p.m. at the Metro Centre against their Division-rival Atlantic Bathurst Titan (19-25-5-5).

with great work ethic to go along with it," Russell says. "He's a guy we've talked about to lead this hockey team the next couple of

announcement of his desire to Major Soccer League will leave this fringe league broken, barren and boring.

Or, at least, that's what some with little understanding of the game are suggesting.

There is no denying that Golden Balls, as he is affectionately referred to in the British press, has certainly rubbed off on the MLS.

Going back to 2007, when he joined the league, it was the right decision for the time. Here was a guy who could transcend sport and put non-soccerloving fans into the seats.

In American markets, where soccer has to compete with baseball, hockey, basketball and football for TV time and fan dollars, the game was always going to be a hard sell — but, at first, it worked.

Galaxy Beckham's recorded league-high home and away attendances in 2007 and 2008. His jersey outsold those of Kobe Bryant, Peyton Manning and Derek Jeter in 2007. And perhaps the most telling stat: when Toronto FC joined the league (the same year as Beckham) they paid a \$10-million expansion fee. Teams, like Vancouver and Miami, who are applying today for expansion, are looking at \$40 million in fees.

Still, despite all that, now is the right time for the two to part ways.

The Beckham experiment was only ever going to be successful if the fans that he attracted would stick around after he left declines in overall league attendance and TV



ratings in 2008 from 2007 show that they weren't. In fact, the number of viewers in 2008 on ESPN dropped below pre-Beckham levels, and seven of the 14 MLS teams recorded a drop in average attendance — suggesting all the mania surrounding the star may have even alienated some of the MLS fan base.

As it stands now, the \$2.3-million salary cap the MLS imposes is prohibitively restrictive. Having a player like Beckham on your squad, earning the pay he does, ultimately affects the product on the field. Decent North American soccer talent is forced to go overseas and play in second-rate European leagues that can pay them livable salaries.

If the MLS would increase the salary cap to \$5 million — still within acceptable profit margins for most clubs — and focus less on attracting big-name fads, teams could re-invest in the talent that was born, raised and developed in their cities and sell a product that fans would actually have a connection to.

On a grassroots level, homegrown talent — like Martin Nash in Vancouver or Dwayne DeRosario in Toronto - will always outsell an occasional Beckham.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football

Former champ hungry to retake curling crown

MATTHEW WUEST matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Shawn Adams knows well how it feels to win a Nova Scotia men's curling championship. He has done it three times.

But lately, all he has tasted is disappointment.

The Mayflower skip is coming off back-to-back losses in the provincial final — last year to Bridgewater's Brian Rafuse and in 2007 to Windsor's Mark Kehoe — and is eager for another crack at his fourth crown this week Chester.

Adams enters the Molson Scotia Cup — known as the Tankard for the past 30 years — as the No. 1 seed.

"We went to the Brier in 2005 and did well and we've tried hard and fo-cused to get back," Adams said. "Being so close the past couple of years, it's just made us hungrier.'

The 34-year-old Upper Tantallon native's rink consists of third Paul Flemming, second Craig Burgess and lead Kelly Mittlestadt, the same group that won provincials in 2005. Adams won with different squads in 2000 and 2002.

In an effort to reverse his team's fortunes, Adams decided to compete in fewer World Curling Tour events this year and spent more time practising on club sur-

"We wanted to focus on the environment we'll be



Shawn Adams, front, is the No. 1 seed at the Molson Scotia Cup.

in for provincials," Adams said. "Arena ice is more curly and quicker and you adjust your strategy. Curling clubs, you have to be

"Being so close the past couple of years, it's just made us hunarier."

Curler Shawn Adams

more patient, more conservative. The past two or three years, we've tended to be more aggressive."

Action starts today at 10 a.m. Glooscaps's Trevor Archibald, Mayflower's Mike Bardsley, Truro's Pe-Burgess ter and Mayflower's Andrew Corkum round out the top five seeds. Kehoe is ninth and Rafuse is 15th, while former Brier champion Mark Dacey of Mayflower checks in at No. 6.

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Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Love on the big screen

Rom-coms can create unrealistic expectations in relationships



sychologists studied students watching 40 top box office hits like You've Got Mail, Serendipity and While You Were Sleeping and found that they were more likely to believe in fate, destiny and predetermined love.

What? Watching romantic comedies sets up unrealistic expectations when it comes to love? Not exactly shocking, I know, but still worth reminding ourselves of at this time of year, when Valentine's Day sets up higher than usual expectations in the romance department. We hardly need movies adding to the pressure.

While, according to the study, romantic comedies would have us believe that if someone is meant to be with you, they should know what you want without you having to tell them, I would hardly stop there. According to my own informal observations, romantic comedies would also have us believe:

- The more you hate someone, the more different the two you are, the more your family hates your date – basically, the more you have going against you when you meet — the greater the chance you'll end up together.
- Your partner ultimately knows what to do or say at precisely the right moment.
- Your partner is always in the mood for sex when you
- Great sex just happens without planning or communication and no one ever gets a leg cramp...or passes wind.
- Relationship problems can be resolved within two hours after which we'll all live happily ever after.

Most of us know these

Valentine's **Day**

movies are unrealistic and we wouldn't want it any other way. Romantic comedies are meant as an escape from reality, an opportunity to bask in a world of happily ever after where love conquers all.

And I know that "Communication Conquers All" isn't quite as romantic sounding, but it's a more realistic place to start. Combine that with regular tolerance, kindness, understanding and some good old fashioned "grinning and bearing it" and you at least stand a chance at putting a dent in, if not completely conquering, most of what comes at the two of you.

In fact, for one tired mom friend of mine, her idea of romance is having her husband get up and change a poopy diaper at 3 a.m... for the fourth night in a row. Hardly the stuff of movie romance but for her right now, a gesture much more meaningful than flowers or

Happy Valentine's Day!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

According to a new study, watching popular romantic comedies like Serendipity (pictured) will likely have you believing in fate.



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Sex, we know, is good for the heart, too: Men who have sex two or more times a week cut their risk of cardiac arrest in half.

Even kissing and hugging have health perks: Kissing increases saliva production, which reduces the bacteria that cause gum disease (a proven contributor to heart disease); hugging stimulates the release of the bonding hormone oxytocin, and

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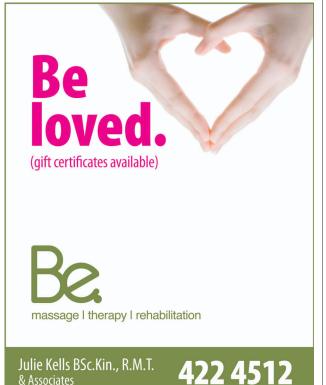
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Saturday, February 28th, 12:15 pm

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Dr. Sherisse O'Leary, Naturopathic Doctor Tuesday, March 3rd, 5:30 pm

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- Darken your room at night. It helps secrete the sleeping hormone melatonin, so you get a deeper, more restful sleep. Dr. Rosalyn Hayman, Naturopathic Doctor and Co-President of the Nova Scotia Association of Naturopathic Doctors.
- End your shower with cool water to boost your immune and circulation. Dr. Sherisse O'Leary, Naturopathic Doctor

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The season eight cast of Dancing with the Stars includes: Jewel and husband Ty Murray, Chuck Wicks, Shawn Johnson, Belinda Carlisle, Denise Richards, Lawrence Taylor, Lil' Kim, Steve-O, Steve Wozniak, David Alan Grier, Gilles Marini, and Nancy O'Dell. PEOPLE.COM

11

Entertainment Studio guest Sex and the City star Sarah Jessica Parker will be the first guest on the new season of Inside the Actors Studio. The first episode airs Sunday on Bravo. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Suitcase success

New Jenn Grant album follows year of touring

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI for Metro Canada

If an artist needs a sign that they're succeeding in the music biz, living out of a suitcase at their mom's place is as good an indication as any.

While Halifax songstress Jenn Grant would rather be holed up in her own apartment — she's currently searching for new digs — finding shelter at her parents' house was her only option after a year of steady touring.

"I need to find an apartment for tomorrow," says Grant, on the phone just minutes before yet another housing-related appointment. "I was on the road and didn't find a place to live, but I'm getting tired of my suitcase."

While she's adamant about renting a new home, now's probably the worst time to move. Her new album — the delicate, guitar-

driven folk rock Echoes — is sure to impress her fans enough that they'll want to see her as much as possible in 2009.

And when she does hit the road, don't expect any rock star shenanigans from this soft spoken chanteuse. "I enjoy a few drinks, but I have to keep it normal," she says. "This is work. If you want tour-

"I was on the road and didn't find a place to live, but I'm getting tired of my suitcase." Jenn Grant

ing to be your life you can't become an alcoholic."

She's also an avid yoga buff, working out every day, including when she's on tour. "When you sing you have to keep yourself strong in the stomach," she explains. "It's awkward to exercise with other peo-



Echoes, the latest album from Halifax-based singer-songwriter Jenn Grant, was released in stores last week.

ple in a hotel room, so I often find myself in stairwells."

Her focused work ethic is one reason Grant has done so well for herself, despite jumping onto Canada's music scene in 2006. Her debut full-length, Orchestra for the Moon, hasn't just won praise from music critics — she also took home CBC's Galaxie Rising Star award last year.

Although Echoes sounds similar to her last disc, it's much less Feist-y and a little more lo-fi than Orchestra. Part of that has to do with where and how she recorded it. The East Coast songwriter spent about three weeks at an isolated Ontario farm, and recorded all her songs live, meaning everyone played to-

Jenn Grant live

• Jenn Grant plays the Rebecca Cohn on Feb. 15.

gether rather than one instrument at a time.

However, working that

way meant Grant was singing over and over again, until every instrument was perfect. It was too much for her vocal chords to handle. "I had to take a week off in the middle because my voice got so tired from singing eight

hours a day," she says. "So I went to the ocean in P.E.I. and didn't talk for several days."

Luckily, she's back in fine form and ready to tour again. Now, if only she could find someplace to live.

Stars boost Grammy ratings

More than 19 million Americans watched a mix of veterans like Paul McCartney and new stars like Taylor Swift perform at the Grammy Awards Sunday — an 11 per cent increase from last year, according to preliminary television ratings Monday.

The three-and-a-half hour music awards show on CBS was seen by 19.05 million U.S. households, compared to 17.18 million in 2008, according to early data from Nielsen Media Research.

Former Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant and bluegrass artist Alison Krauss came away with a leading five Grammys for their Raising Sand collaboration on a night that also saw performances and trophies for British band



Coldplay frontman Chris Martin at the Grammys Sunday.

Coldplay, singer Jennifer Hudson, British newcomer Adele and rapper Kanye West.

"The Recording Academy put on quite a show — an unprecedented 24 performances and a range of artists that appealed to 'tweens,' teens, young adults and (baby) boomers," said Jack Sussman, an executive vice president at CBS Entertainment.

Stevie Wonder teamed up on stage with the Jonas Brothers and Disney idol Miley Cyrus, 16, performed with teen country sensation Taylor Swift in a show opened by rock band U2.

The increased viewer ratings provided some cheer to an industry fighting a losing battle to maintain album sales in an era of legal and illegal digital downloads.

Last year's Grammy ceremony audience was the third smallest since the event first aired for a national audience in 1971.

REUTERS



A Blu-ray player and collection of Blu-ray movies:

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SECONDARY PRIZES:

Nights in Rodanthe DVD





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12 entertainment



After a week of rousing performances, including her knockout appearance at Sunday's Grammys, Jennifer Hudson is ready to take her show on the road. The Grammy winner, 27, will kick off her first solo tour on April 2 in Philadelphia. PEOPLE.COM

option for Jones

SZONJA KREZINGER Metro World News

24 Hours.

Is it easy to talk to songwriters about your life?

They are all professionals, so it wasn't. I knew they will make a proper use of all I say. And I talk about myself easily, I have nothing to hide.

There could

be no Duffy

Winehouse

Jones. How

do you feel

to them?

when you listen

That they do

could have done

something

in the '60s. One reason

to think this is the pro-

ducers for my current

album wanted to work

with me to recreate the

'60s in music with the

opportunities of the 21st

recorded this al-

At the

start

bum earlier.

your career

you met Frank

Sinatra, Elvis,

The Beatles

members –

What kid of

you have of

meetings?

memories do

were

big things to me. I

century. I couldn't have

without Tom

or Amy

This is your first album on which you were involved in writing songs. Why did you make this decision after so many years?

He still tours the world

and just released his last al-

bum in November: Al-

though he is 68, Tom Jones

does not think of retiring

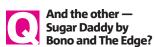
at all. We spoke with the

singer about his latest CD,

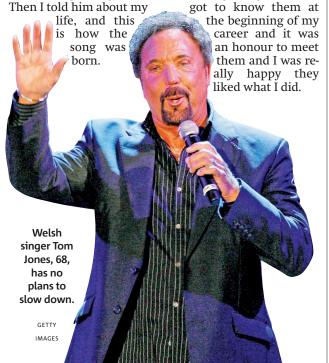
Because I did not like the songs (that) were sent to me. I searched for songwriters and asked them to write for me and I was also involved in the process.

You recorded two special songs to the album: First is The Road, dedicated to your wife. Did she like it?

Yes, a lot! This song was born when a songwriter asked me — as the songs on the album are about my life if there had ever been a song recorded about my wife. To my surprise (one had) not, although she is an important part of my life. All roads led back to her.



The idea of the album was born the same time when the idea of this song was born. I was sitting in a pub in Dublin with Bono and made up my mind about him writing a song for me.



Retirement not an Healing with Bashir

You can't see Waltz with Bashir legally in Lebanon but you can buy copies of the Oscar-nominated Israeli anti-war film in Beirut's Hamra district where director Ari Folman saw his life change 26 years ago.

I've ever seen," said Lokman Slim, an activist with Lebanon's UMAM organization which aims to preserve the country's memories of war by screening movies related to

one of the greatest films The 81st Annual Academy

its decades of bloodshed. "I feel jealous that those

Awardś

we should consider our enemies have the courage to revisit events in which were involved, while we Lebanese are in an endless silence regarding our history," Lokman told Reuters in Beirut.

> Waltz with Bashir the title conveys Israel's alliance with Lebanon's Christian leader at the time, Bashir Gemayel mixes documentary and animation to depict the trauma of an Israeli invasion 26 years

ago to expel Palestinian guerrillas.

The film ends with the masof sacre hundreds of Palestinians by Israel's Lebanese

Christian allies in Sabra Shatila refugee camps of Beirut.

Folman was 19-year-old conscript the time. His movie has won Golden Globe for best foreign guage film of 2008 and was nominated last month for an

"When the film finished, people were very, very silent and when they went out, some had tears in their eyes."

Hudson ready to hit the road

Monika Boramann

Oscar for best foreign film. In Lebanon, Waltz is banned under laws that forbid trade with Israel. But there is huge interest, said Monika Borgmann, who acquired a copy from a German distributor and organized a private screening in Beirut in January.

'I invited 30 people but they brought their friends with them and we ended up being around 90," said Borgmann, who heads UMAM. "When the film finished, people were very, very silent and when they went out, some had tears in their eyes.'

Not everyone is pleased by how Folman tells the sto-

"It only presents part of the truth, not the whole truth. It is as if the director is saying, 'We (Israelis) did not commit this crime, the Phalangists did," said Ziad Moussa, a retired teacher in the West Bank city of Ramallah where Waltz with Bashir was screened at the Franco-German cultural centre.

But despite his reservations about Folman's depiction of service in Lebanon as an ordeal that left deep psychological scars, Moussa said the film was a "step in the right direction" to healing the bloody past between Israelis and Palestini-

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Who'll save superheroes from economy?

The big man with little dreadlocks aimed his camera at two Imperial Stormtroopers. "Say 'Death Star!'" he ordered.

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In Star Wars, the troopers are lethal oppressors. At the 2009 New York Comic Con, a gathering for devotees of comic books, graphic novels and sciencefiction gear, they are free photo opportunities.

Free is good at Comic Con, where this year attendees are getting their superhero fix on a budget. The financial crisis might not be driving people to soup kitchens, but rising unemployment and fiscal fear are instilling a new frugality.

"I'll be happy if I do 60 per cent as much as last year," said Albert Stoltz,

"This is escapism, but we don't need comic books as much as you need bread or food." Basement Comics owner Albert Stoltz

owner of Basement Comics in Havre de Grace, Maryland. "It's a little slow. This aisle should be full."

Stoltz, who paid \$2,400 for a booth to sell comic books priced as high as \$150 each, added, "This is escapism, but we don't need comic books as much as you need bread or food."

In the basement food court Ordalina Acevedo thought this year's conference wasn't as buoyant as last vear.

"There are less people; it's because of the economy," she said as she rang up a

customer's sandwich at a cash register.

The hardcore fans did show up. At least half-adozen lokers were on the prowl in smudged lipstick, greasepaint, green vests and purple trench coats. A few Batman manques and a masked "V" from the book and movie V for Vendetta made the rounds.

models. Promotional known as "booth babes." sashayed in short, tight skirts and T-shirts, turning the heads of bespectacled teenaged boys dressed as superheroes.

Comic Con can rely on ardent fans to stay flush in hard times, said Chris Stuppi, founder of Griffons Claw Armoury in Piscataway, New Jersey, which was selling replicas of knives, Samurai swords and other weaponry at the convention.

"People save up, knowing they'll go to the show," said Stuppi.

For student Nick Barone, spending \$300 to come was a must. Barone, 22, took the bus from Geneseo in upstate New York, and waited in line, dressed in a stretchy yellow Kid-Flash costume, to get an autograph from Teen Titans writer Geoff Johns.

"I really had to go all out,"he said.

REUTERS



entertainment **13**

Divine dinner



ABOVE: Jodi Slaunwhite and Joanne Crooks at the Progress Club Sports Celebrity Dinner.

Halifax**Scene** Jamie Paterson

THIS YEAR'S Canadian **Progress Club dinner is** one they'll be talking about for many years to come! Hockey legends Frank Mahovlich and Brian Trottier teamed up with football's Jim Kelly and Olympic gold medalist Adam van Koeverden. But it was basketball bad boy **Dennis Rodman who** brought the show to a complete halt with his four letter words, tears and wild antics. Master of **Ceremonies Rod Black** brought everything back on the rails, and comic Dave Hemstad kept us laughing! On the other side of town, someone was winning a \$65,000 Mercedes Benz as part of the Scotia Festival of Music car draw. The buffet and auction at the World **Trade and Convention** Centre raised money for the upcoming 30th anniversary of the festival this June.



ABOVE: Sports Celebrity Dinner chairman Steve Murphy at the head table with emcee Rod Black, left, and the flamboyant Dennis Rodman.



ABOVE: Halifax Progress Club member Trent McGrath with Emily, a showgirl from Casino Nova Scotia



ABOVE: Pictou Co. Progress Club members Paula Irving and Hilary March at the 37th annual Sports Celebrity Dinner.

SAG labour talks resume next week

auction tables at the Scotia

Festival of Music fundraiser.

UNION The board of the largest U.S. actors union Sunday reconfirmed the recent ouster of their chief negotiator in longstalled labour contract talks with Hollywood's major studios, said a source with knowledge of the decision. Citing unnamed sources, showbusiness newspapers The Hollywood Reporter and Daily Variety said talks could restart as soon as Feb. 17. A SAG spokeswoman declined to comment. The Screen Actors Guild represents some 120,000 actors.

REUTERS

In **brief**

TV Married With Children alum Ed O'Neill will star in ABC's half-hour pilot An American Family, which also has cast Eric Stonestreet. REUTERS







critics'corner-

If we've said it once, we've said it a million times: Don't get yourself wrapped up in an in ner-city gang war when you're investigating the death of a Marine. But that's just what the members of the NCIS team do. Why? Because they don't listen to us. Making matters worse, Gibbs (Mark Harmon) must face down demons from his past when he finds a cryptic message waiting for him at the crime scene. 9 PM on CBS,

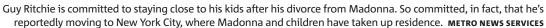


Wild Roses

"I love ya, man!" In this new episode, Charlotte (Clare Stone) throws her first alcohol-fueled house party and finds herself seriously crushing on someone. But will the infatuation survive the hangover? Peter (Adam MacDonald) grows jealous of Kate's (Michelle Harrison) growing fondness for Briggs and breaks into his truck to find out Briggs' true identity in "Oil and Water." 9 PM on CBC

Style by Jury
OK, time to knock the wind out of
that old saying "Those who can,
do, and those who can't, teach."
Sylvia wants to be a dance instructor, but her own body is not setting a very good example not setting a very good example for her would-be students; she's out of shape and smokes like a chimney. Host Bruce Turner and his gang of stylists get to work on helping her find a new look worthy of her over-the-top personality. 10:30 PM on W

Committed father







Posh gets an early V-Day

ROMANCE David Beckham lier that night Victoria had flew into London for 24 hours to give wife Victoria an early Valentine's Day

Celebrity Buzz

treat, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The soccer star travelled from Milan on Saturday night, booked a room at exclusive hotel Claridges and showered Posh with expensive flowers chocolates. Earbeen spotted dining alone at Locanda Locatelli restau-

A source said: "It was the only chance they had to meet up in their hectic schedules" David. 33, then jetted off late Sunday to meet up with the England soccer squad in Spain. METRO **NEWS SERVICES**

Affleck still hoping for a son

FAMILY Ben Affleck wants to have a son, femalefirst.co.

uk reports. The actor — whose wife Jennifer Garner gave birth to second daughter Seraphina Rose last month is keen to keep expanding

his brood until they have a boy. A source close to Ben - who also has three-yearold daughter Violet with Jennifer — said: "Ben's happy to keep going until he gets his boy.

"He has visions of dressing a little guy in Boston Red Sox gear, tossing a baseball around and cheering in the stands together."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Is Jessica Simpson preggers?

RUMOURS The real reason for Jessica Simpson's recent weight gain may just be that she has a bun in the oven. "She hasn't been packing on the pounds because she's overeating," a source tells the Daily Mail.

"The big rumour from her inner circle is that a baby could be the reason she's carrying some added weight." Simpson is dating Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo. "Those closest to them almost certainly know the truth but they have been sworn

to secrecy,' METRO NEWS

Further charges could follow in Brown arrest Angeles Police Department ATTACK Singer Chris Brown

was arrested and charged with making criminal threats Sunday in Los Angeles for an early morning attack on an unidentified woman widely thought to be his girlfriend, pop star Rihanna.

Los Angeles police would not confirm the name of the victim, but both Brown and Rihanna missed their performances at Sunday's Grammy Awards, and several media outlets speculated that Rihanna was the unidentified woman.

Brown, 19, was scheduled to perform his love song Forever at the music awards ceremony in Los Angeles Sunday evening, and Rihanna was set to sing her hit single Distur-

Neither Rihanna, who was nominated in three categories, nor Brown, who was nominated twice, walked the red carpet, and they were not in attendance for the awards ceremony. Their representatives could not be reached for comment.

As the show was getting underway, Brown turned himself in for questioning by police. Later, he was booked on a charge of making criminal threats and released on \$50,000 US bail, according to a Los

statement.

Brown was being investigated for alleged domestic violence felony battery, and additional charges could be filed after officials review the case, the LAPD said in its statement.

Rihanna cancelled her performance shortly before the Grammys started, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences said, "We have just been informed that Rihanna will not be attending tonight's 51st Annual Grammy Awards. We're sorry she is unable to join us." There was no further explanation for her ab-

Soul legend Al Green performed alongside pop star Justin Timberlake in Rihanna's place.

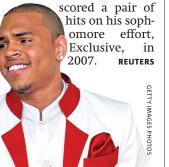
officials Grammy made no mention of Brown's performance but he did not appear on stage as scheduled.

Police said Brown got into argument an with an unidentiwoman while sitting in a parked car in the city's Hancock Park neighbourhood at around 12:30 a.m. Sunday.

"After stopping his car, Brown and the woman got out and the argument escalated," the police said. "The woman suffered visible injuries and identified Brown as her attacker."

Police received a 911 call reporting the disturbance and according to the statement, when officers arrived they found the victim, but Brown had already left the scene.

Brown, who broke onto the Billboard charts at the age of 16 with his hit single Run It and sold two million copies of his self-titled debut album, also



Murphy and Mel end support battle

FAMILY Eddie Murphy's child support battle with Melanie (Scary Spice) Brown has come to an end, with Murphy now required to pay \$50,000 US a month for 22-month-old Angel Iris until the girl is 18, according to the Telegraph. Murphy also agreed to finally

see the little girl, whom he originally denied was his daughter until DNA tests proved otherwise. metro NEWS SERVICES

Jen throws herself a 40th birthday party

EVENTS Jennifer Aniston celebrated a landmark birthday a few days early. The Friends star, who turns 40 tomorrow, threw a lavish party at her Beverly Hills mansion on the weekend, reports Exposay.com. **Guests included Courteney** Cox, Tom Hanks, Oprah Winfrey and Jen's boyfriend, John Mayer. METRO NEWS

Elton's not amused with David Spade

SERVICES

RUN-INS Not everyone finds David Spade funny. The comedian was having dinner with Courteney Cox in Los Angeles at the same restaurant as Elton John and his husband, David Furnish, according to Page Six. When John seated some of his bodyguards at a table next to Spade and Cox, Spade joked, "I hope he's picking



Kate's been visiting Owen

ROMANCE Kate Hudson has sparked romance rumours after visiting Owen Wilson "relifemalegiously," first.co. uk reports. Hudson, who has dated the actor

on and off since

2006, has been

spotted at Wil-

son's Malibu home several times in the past two weeks.

A source told x17 Online: "Kate has been coming to the house religiously. She is here at least a couple times a week and she has been sunbathing in the back yard, hanging out by the swimming pool."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mick cracks up BAFTA-goers AWARDS Mick Jagger delivered the top prize — to the evening's big winner, Slumdog Millionaire - and the best line of the evening, at Sunday's 2009 British Academy Film Awards, peo-

Explaining what he was doing at a movie event the same night as the Gram-

ple.com reports.

mys, the Rolling Stone said he was part of a rock star-movie star exchange program. "Sir Anthony Hopkins is in the recording studio with Amy Winejoked house," Jagger, "And we are hoping that

next week Sir Brad and all the Pitt family will be performing The Sound of Music at the Brit awards." Sitting in the audience with fellow nominee Angelina Jolie, Pitt cracked up and applauded along with the rest of the crowd.

METRO NEWS SERVICES









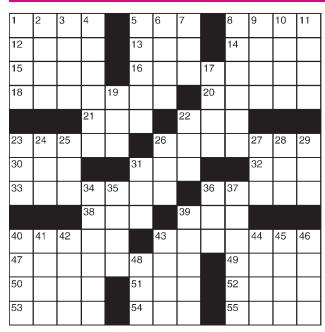


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entertainment **15**

Take Five

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Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		6		8	5			
		5	4			3		
			9				2	8
		2	8			9		5
	1						4	
3		7			4	2		
4	6				9			
		3			1	8		
			2	7		6		

Crossword across

1 GIs' dinner 5 Watch chain 8 Magician's stick 12 Wheel holder 13 Spring mo. 14 Sheltered 15 "Once — a time" 16 Raze 18 Inside information 20 That is (Lat.) 21 Historic time

22 Enemy

23 Ringo or

26 Insult 30 "Alley -31 Scull tool 32 Zodiac feline 33 Disappointment 36 Passenger 38 Puncturing implement 39 Hamburger holder 40 Talia of "Rocky" 43 Twilight start 47 Confinement

Brenda

measure 49 Canal zone 50 Reed instrument 51 Coq au -52 Slithery swimmers 53 Former German capital 54 Rocker Winehouse 55 Foolish one

Metro Recipe of the Day

Crossword down

1 Handle roughly 2 Big fair 3 Decelerate 4 "Return to —" 5 Islamic decree 6 Admitting customers 7 Support system? 8 Rolled up into a ball 9 Lotion additive 10 11 p.m. telecast 11 Fender bender result 17 Laugh-a-

minute 19 Bobby of hockey 22 Bear hair 23 Fa follower 24 Pirouette pivot 25 Suitable 26 Skillet 27 Antiquated 28 Teensy 29 Neither mate 31 Harry Potter's Hedwig, e.g. 34 Dim the lights 35 Still unpaid 36 Skedaddle 37 "Absolutely PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

39 Easter symbol 40 Unkempt one 41 Vagrant 42 PC picture 43 Take to the lake 44 Sandwich cookie 45 Executor's document 46 Birds' home 48 Eggs

8 4 2

5 1 6

9 7 3

6 9 4

2 8 5

4 6 7

17-21 minSmart

21-25 minNot bad

25+ min.....Keep practising

7 3 8

4 9 3

3 2 8 6 4 9

1 5 9 3 8 7

2 5 4

1 7 2

8 6 5

5 2 1

9 2 4

5 3 8

8 9 3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

1 6

4 9 7 3 1

5 7

6 2

6 8

sliced

6 pork loin chops with bones, 3/4 in. (2 cm) thick and trimmed 1 lb (500 g) sauerkraut, drained and rinsed 1 large yellow onion,

Sauerkraut and

Nonstick cooking spray

Cider Pork

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup shredded carrot 1/2 cup (125 ml) apple cider or apple juice 1 tbsp (15 ml) firmly packed light brown sugar 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried rosemary leaves 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ground ginger

1/4 tsp (1 ml) black pepper METHOD:

1 Coat 10-in. (25-cm) nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Heat skillet over

moderate heat. Add 3 pork chops and cook 3 minutes per side or until browned. Remove chops. Repeat with remaining chops. 2 Add sauerkraut, onion, carrot, apple cider, brown sugar, rosemary, ginger and pepper to skillet; stir until mixed. 3 Place chops on top of sauerkraut mixture. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, 5 to 6 minutes or until chops are

no longer pink inside.

rd.ca

SERVES 6

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on



AVATAR VENUS

Horoscopes

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

You are expected to set a better example to others. A sweet woman will remain loyal and true-hearted. Damaged goods

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

will give you no joy.

A wonderful man makes you laugh. Trivial problems with a casual romance cause dismay. Those who fight comfort are merely afraid.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

Meet and greet the people who are in charge. A flirtation has an emotional impact. You'll feel a sense of urgency to visit a

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

A foolish affectation will be boring. A control freak's conceit will infuriate you. A situation becomes serious and you'll make decisions.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 minGenius

13-17 min.....Scholar

A bully seeks a chink in your armour. A gracious person admits that you were right. Have your skills assessed before a training program.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

All eyes will be on you if you horse around. You have much to say about love. Indisputable information is revealed by a blasé person.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22 Last minute details crop up and cause fury. You'll need help in your search for intelligent life. Talking of family causes an argumentative night.

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

A stubborn stranger provokes insights. Reflections of the past will echo into your future. Go all the way when presenting ideas to a group.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

A blast from the past stops you in your tracks. Don't risk a battle of the bulge. Somebody's temper-tantrums could damage their reputation.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

Your work pays off in pleasing ways. The news creates an atmosphere of uncertainty. When you're in doubt, ask for more information.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

Using diplomacy in a debate will calm the waters. The end of a project brings sadness and relief. Watch out for hidden pitfalls in a relationship.

PISCES



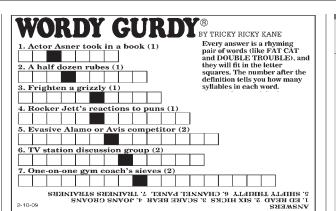
Get busy doing the things you want to do. An apology changes your attitude. Someone's fragile ego will need some pampering.

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This day in history

FEB. 10, 1870: The YWCA is founded in New York City.

FEB. 10, 1904: The Russo-Japanese War over Korea and Manchuria begins after the Battle of Port Arthur.

FEB. 10, 1906: The HMS Dreadnought is launched.

FEB. 10, 1931: New Delhi becomes the capital of India.

FEB. 10, 1933: The New York City-based Postal Telegraph Company introduces the first singing telegram.

FEB. 10, 1954: President Dwight Eisenhower warns against United States intervention in Vietnam.

FEB. 10, 1996: The IBM supercomputer Deep Blue defeats Garry Kasparov for the first time.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Bridgewater Mall Dartmouth

Mic Mac Mall

Dartmouth Crossing 535 Portland St.

202 Brownlow Ave., Unit C-U

Halifax

Bayers Lake Power Centre

6100 Young St. 5657 Spring Garden Rd.

1668 Barrington St.

740 Bedford Hwy. W

New Glasgow

Aberdeen Shopping Centre

New Minas

County Fair Mall

Port Hawkesbury

47 Paint St.

Sydney

Mayflower Mall

Halifax Shopping Centre

Truro

245 Robie St.

Windsor

Fort Edward Mall

Yarmouth

Yarmouth Mall

NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR

Carbonear

Clarenville

Trinity Conception Square

Random Square Shopping Mall

Corner Brook

Corner Brook Plaza 69 Broadway Rd.

Gander

Gander Mall Grand Falls-Windsor

Exploits Valley Mall Marystown

Peninsula Mall St. John's/Mount Pearl

Avalon Mall

The Village Shopping Centre

336 Freshwater Rd. 55 Kelsey Dr.

35 Stavanger Dr.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Bathurst

Place Bathurst Mall

Campbelton Sugar Loaf Mall

Edmundston 121 rue de L'Église

Fredericton

Regent Mall

Grand Falls

Grand Falls Shopping Centre Miramichi

Bridgeview Plaza

Moncton/Dieppe/Riverview Champlain Place

Wheeler Park Power Centre

33 Mapleton Rd.

535 Coverdale Rd. 106 - 451 Paul St.

Saint John Lancaster Mall

McAllister Place

Shippigan

242 Boul. J.D. Gauthier Tracadie/Sheila

3379 rue Principale

Charlottetown Charlottetown Mall

393 University Ave.

102 - 475 Granville St.

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